**Parent or Carer Information Sheet**

**Study Title:** Hegemonic Masculinity and Homophobic Aggression in Young People

**Researcher(s):** Ffion Davies

**University email:** fhd1g14@soton.ac.uk

**Ethics/ERGO no:** 71517

**Version and date:** Version 1, 29/04/2022

**What is the research about?**

My name is Ffion Davies and I am a Trainee Educational Psychologist at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

I am inviting your child to participate in a study regarding masculinity and homophobic aggression in young people.

The aim of this research is to better understand factors which may lead to homophobic aggression including beliefs about masculinity, gender norms and levels of empathy. I hope that this research will contribute to the understanding of how to reduce homophobic aggression and bullying amongst young people in secondary schools.

This study was approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) at the University of Southampton (Ethics/ERGO Number: 71517)

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

This study involves completing an anonymous questionnaire which should take approximately 30 minutes of your child’s time. If you **DO NOT** wish for your child to take part in this survey, you will need to complete the Opt-Out Consent form and return to the school office. If your child is aged 16 or over, they will be informed that their parent/guardian does not wish for them to take part in the study, but they may still choose to participate. This survey is anonymous therefore your child’s name will not be recorded, and researchers and school staff will not be able to identify your child’s responses to the survey.

**Why has your child been asked to participate?**

Your child’s school have agreed to help collect data for this research, therefore every student’s parent or guardian have been given an opt-out consent form asking their child to take part. Your child has been asked to take part because they are between the ages of 11 and 19. Your child’s school is just one in several secondary schools I am hoping to collect data in. I am aiming to collect data from around 200 participants for this study.

**What information will be collected?**

The questions in this survey ask for information in relation to your child’s attitudes towards masculinity and gender roles. It will also ask about homophobic attitudes and aggression. Lastly, it will ask things about personality such as empathy and self-esteem. The survey will also ask for your child’s age and gender identity. This survey is anonymous and therefore will not ask for your child’s name or other details which could identify them.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

If you decide to allow your child to take part in this study their participation will contribute to knowledge in this area of research.

Upon completion of the survey your child will also have the opportunity to vote for a charity. Whichever charity has the most votes by the end of the research will receive a donation of £50 From the researcher on behalf of all the participants. This is optional and your child’s choice will not be recorded as part of the study.

The charities your child will be able to vote for are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Proud Trust*A charity which supports LGBTQIA+ young people* | Friends of the Earth*A charity dedicated to sustainability*  | RSPCA*Protecting pets and wildlife*  | Cancer Research*Funding research into beating cancer* |

Your child’s school is also receiving a collection of books relating to Inclusion and Diversity as compensation for their participation.

**Are there any risks involved?**

It is expected that taking part in this study will not cause your child any psychological discomfort and/or distress, however, should they feel uncomfortable they can leave the survey at any time by closing the window. If your child would like more information or support relating to LGBTQIA+ topics or feel distressed after the survey they can visit the following websites for support:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Proud Trust theproudtrust.org | or | Young Minds youngminds.org.uk |

**What will happen to the information collected?**

All information collected for this study will be stored securely on a secure server. Anonymous data will be kept on the University data repository (ePrints Soton) for use in future research and for people to check the validity of this research.

The information collected will be analysed and written up as part of the researcher’s thesis and published in a journal. The data collected will be anonymous and reports will not include information that can directly identify your child or their school.

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. In accordance with our Research Data Management Policy, data will be held for 10 years after the study has finished when it will be securely destroyed.

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you are unhappy about any aspect of this study and would like to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Head of Research Integrity and Governance, University of Southampton, on the following contact details: Email: rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk, phone: + 44 2380 595058.

Please quote the Ethics/ERGO number above. Please note that by making a complaint you might be no longer anonymous.

More information on your rights as a study participant is available via this link:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/governance/participant-information.page>

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and considering taking part in this research.**